

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3502
ANSWERED ON:16.04.2008
MODERN TECHNOLOGY ARMS TO FOREST GUARDS
Gandhi Smt. Maneka

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether old and outdated arms have been provided to the Forest Guards in Kaziranga National Park to protect the park from poachers;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to provide modern technology arms to the Forest Guards to protect the parks from poachers;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS(SHRI S.REGUPATHY)

- (a) & (b) The Forest Guards in Kaziranga National Park are allowed to use arms with non-prohibited bores and hence equipped with .315 rifles only. However, the Assam Forest Protection Force personnel and the Home Guards deployed therein are provided with .303 rifles.
- (c), (d) & (e) Based on the proposals received in the form of Annual Plan of Operations, Government of India provides financial and technical assistance to the State/UT Governments under the various Centrally Sponsored Schemes – Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries, Project Tiger and Project Elephant for various activities aimed at the conservation of wildlife including the procurement of arms and ammunition. Such proposals are processed by the Central Government subject to the availability of funds and fulfillment of necessary legal and procedural requirements.